

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

At page 1, immediately after the title, please delete the centered heading as follows:

~~Description~~

At page 1, immediately before paragraph 0001, please insert the following heading at the left-hand margin:

Field of the Disclosure

At page 1, please amend paragraph 0001 as follows:

The invention relates to a method and a device for the manufacture of hollow bodies ~~of the type described in the preambles of Claims 1 and 8.~~

At page 1, immediately before paragraph 0002, please insert the following heading at the left-hand margin:

Background of the Disclosure

At page 2, immediately before paragraph 0004 please insert the following heading at the left-hand margin:

Summary of the Disclosure

At page 2, please amend paragraph 0004 as follows:

The invention is thus based on the problem of providing a method and a device for the manufacture of hollow bodies with an improved gas barrier coating.

At page 2, please delete paragraph 0005 as follows:

~~This problem is solved by the method according to Claim 1 and the device according to Claim 8.~~

At page 2, please amend paragraph 0006 as follows:

The present invention is based on the knowledge that, using the claimed, careful, multi-step preliminary treatment, it is possible to effectively suppress bubble formation and the associated decrease in the barrier effect. As a result of the electrostatic discharging of the surface after the treatment to increase the surface

energy, the adhesion of the coating can be evened out, so that bubble formation no longer occurs.

Beginning at page 2, and continuing at page 3, please amend paragraph 0009 as follows:

An additional possibility to improve the barrier properties of the coating consists in conferring a substantially higher surface energy than has been done to date in the state of the art. According to the disclosure invention, the surface energy is increased to values above 60 mN/m, and preferably above 70 mN/m. To increase the surface energy to these values, it is appropriate above all to use the known flaming method.

At page 3, please amend paragraph 0010 as follows:

An additional possibility to improve the barrier properties of the coating, according to the disclosure invention, consists of a gentle blowing process at lower temperatures (below 60°C, preferably at 45°C), using, however, a highly dehumidified air, which preferably has a water content of less than 3 g/m³. As a result of this type of drying, an even and complete drying throughout the entire layer thickness is achieved, so that any remaining residual humidity content is distributed evenly throughout the entire coating and the formation of a skin is suppressed. On the other hand, dryers, when used under microwave or infrared radiation, produce a more rapid drying, but they are associated with the risk that a higher than desired residual humidity content remains under a very dry, crumpled, surface skin, where the crumpled surface persists even after the blowing process.

At page 37, immediately before paragraph 0012 please insert the following heading at the left-hand margin:

Brief Description of the Drawings

At page 3, please amend paragraph 0012 as follows:

Embodiment examples of the disclosure invention are described in greater detail below, with reference to the drawing. In the drawing:

Figure 1 shows a schematic top view of a device according to the disclosure invention for carrying out the method according to the disclosure invention, and

Figure 2 shows a schematic representation of a hollow body during the coating.

At page 3, immediately before paragraph 0013, please insert the following heading at the left-hand margin:

Detailed Description of the Disclosure

Beginning at page 3, and continuing to page 4, please amend paragraph 0013 as follows:

Figure 1 shows a highly schematic top view of a part of a substantially automatic and continuous device 1 for the manufacture of hollow bodies 2 (Figure 2) with a gas barrier coating 3. The hollow bodies 2 can be the conventional preforms (preforms), as used for manufacturing drink bottles or similar containers. However, the device 1 according to the disclosure invention can also be used to coat hollow bodies which have already been finished.

Beginning at page 7, and continuing at page 8, please amend paragraph 0027 as follows:

As a variant of the described and illustrated embodiment examples, it is possible to carry out the degreasing using other degreasing agents and/or other known installations. Instead of the flaming device, one can also use, for the purpose of subjecting a coating to a preliminary treatment, corona, plasma or HF treatment devices which in themselves are known, or similar devices. The discharging can also be carried out by other known means. The preliminary treatment section proposed according to the disclosure invention can also be used in coating devices for other plastics and/or with other coating agents. Besides applying by blowing, one can also apply the coatings by spraying, immersion or other known coating procedures. The drying can also be carried out by other known drying procedures such as, for example, infrared radiation or microwave radiation, in particular if the sensitivity of the coating agent is relatively low. The disclosure invention can also be used for coating internal surfaces, even when working with only one coating agent or when only one layer is applied.